AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

1. Please amend the sentence beginning on page 1, line 1, as follows:

This application is a [[☒]] continuation ☐ ~~division~~ of application ~~Serial~~ No. 09/030,840, filed February 26, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,446,070, which is incorporated herein by reference.

2. Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7, and ending on page 6, line 11, as follows:

Systems consistent with the present invention address shortcomings of the prior art and provide a dynamic distributed computing system used over a network of server computers. This dynamic distributed computing system is particularly useful in heterogenous computer networks having computers with different processors, different operating systems, and combinations thereof. Such a system allows a client application to select a server computer at runtime to execute a particular task. In method and systems consistent with the present invention, the task is an object having a particular type or class definition. The server can generally defer knowing the actual class definition until the parameters and data associated with the object task are received on the server. Consequently, the particular type is downloaded by the server if it is not available on the server. For example, if an object instance of an unknown class is transmitted to the server, the server downloads the unknown class. The server then uses this class to process the object. This late association of a class definition to an object increases the flexibility in processing complex tasks over a network of server computers. Further, the present design facilitates this flexibility with minimal additional overhead by utilizing features in existing

remote procedure call subsystems such as the Remote Method Invocation (RMI) subsystem developed by Sun Microsystems, Inc. of Mountain View, California. For more information on Remote Method Invocation (RMI) see co-pending U.S. Patent Application, "System and Method For Facilitating Loading of "Stub" Information to Enable a Program Operating in One Address Space to Invoke Processing of a Remote Method or Procedure in Another Address Space" having serial number 08/636,706, filed April 23, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,938,263, by Ann M. Wollrath, James Waldo, and Roger Riggs, assigned to a common assignee and hereby incorporated by reference. Also, RMI is ~~also~~ described in further detail in the ~~RMI specification~~ "Java (TM) Remote Method Invocation Specification," available on the JavaSoft WebPage provided by Sun Microsystems, Inc. ~~at FTP://ftp.javasoft.com/docs/jdk1.2/rmi-spec-jdk1.2.ps~~, which is also hereby incorporated by reference.